

Service Area Strategic Plan

Department of Social Services (765)

Service Area 19 of 33

Auxiliary Grants for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (765 468 01)

Description

An Auxiliary Grant (AG) is a supplement to income (i.e., cash assistance) for recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and certain other aged, blind, or disabled individuals residing in an assisted living facility (ALF) licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) or in an adult foster care (AFC) home approved by a local department of social services. This assistance is available through local departments of social services to ensure that AG recipients are able to maintain a standard of living that meets a basic level of need.

VDSS administers Virginia's AG program. An individual must be assessed by the local department of social services to determine their financial eligibility for an AG and the level of care needed. Local departments of social services make payments to eligible assisted living facility (ALF) residents in an amount equal to the approved ALF rate plus a personal care allowance per month. This payment also subtracts any income available to the individual from sources such as SSI.

Not all ALFs accept AG payments. As stated above, AG payments are comprised of two parts: a payment to the adult for reimbursing the facility for care and a personal needs allowance. AG recipients also use portions of their SSI payments or other income supplement payments to assisted living facilities. The SSI payment plus the AG payment together make up the approved ALF monthly rate.

Background Information

Mission Alignment and Authority

- *Describe how this service supports the agency mission*

Auxiliary Grants enable aged, blind or disabled individuals to remain in the least restrictive setting and to maximize their potential for independence and self-sufficiency.

- *Describe the Statutory Authority of this Service*

63.2-800 - Auxiliary Grants (AG) administration and ALF Placement. In order to receive an AG while residing in an ALF or Adult Foster Care residence, an individual must be evaluated by a case manager to determine his or her need for residential care.

Customers

Agency Customer Group	Customer	Customers served annually	Potential annual customers
General Public (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Employees	12	0
Governmental Entities (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Local Departments of Social Services	120	120
Individuals, Children and Families (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Low-income Individuals and Families	5,497	0
Governmental Entities (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Policy Makers	300	0

Auxiliary Grants for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled

Businesses (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Providers (Assisted Living)	580	0
Governmental Entities (served unknown; potential unlimited)	State and Local Government agencies	136	0
Individuals, Children and Families (served unknown; potential unlimited)	Vulnerable Adults	5,497	0

Anticipated Changes To Agency Customer Base

The Auxiliary Grant service population may be expected to expand in both the short-term and the long-term. Demographic forces, including the aging of the Baby Boomers and longer lifespans experienced by individuals who are mentally or physically incapacitated, will drive the expansion. In addition, initiatives such as the Money Follows the Person demonstration project and a 2007 legislative study on Auxiliary Grant "portability" are examining the feasibility of adding other residential options beside assisted living facilities and adult foster care. These changes would also expand the service population.

Partners

Partner	Description
Community Action Agencies	
Hospitals and emergency medical services	
Local Departments of Social Services	
Local law enforcement agencies	
Providers	
State agencies	
Virginia Institute for Social Services Training Activities (VISSTA)	
Volunteer organizations	

Products and Services

- *Factors Impacting the Products and/or Services:*

Current AG rates do not cover the entire cost of care, limiting ALF and AFC placements and services. The current monthly AG rates are \$1,014, except in Planning District 8 where it is \$1,166. The situation will be aggravated as the eligible population grows. In FY 2007, the average monthly AG caseload was 5,497, representing a 12% decrease in the AG caseload. However, even with the reduced number of cases federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements were met.

- *Anticipated Changes to the Products and/or Services*

A legislative study and federally funded initiatives arising from Olmstead community integration effort and the federal Deficit Reduction Act are examining the feasibility of Auxiliary Grant "portability." Currently, the Auxiliary Grant is limited to individuals residing in assisted living facilities or adult foster care homes. The Money Follows the Person demonstration project may identify adult foster care homes and the Auxiliary Grant as an option for individuals who wish to move out of institutions. Further, Social Security Administration/SSI regulations permit states to adopt up to five additional

options with SSI/SSA approval. However, additional options would become part of Virginia's federal MOE obligation and would have to be funded at or above initial levels indefinitely. It is unlikely that the General Assembly will be willing to incur additional MOE and funding obligations at this time.

- *Listing of Products and/or Services*
 - Support of organizations serving communities
 - Recruitment of volunteers and training on management of volunteers
 - Services to promote family stability
 - Services to protect vulnerable adults
 - Economic assistance to low income families/individuals or nutrition, child care, health care eligibility, and financial assistance to low income families/individuals
 - Services that promote sufficiency
 - Pre-admission screenings for Assisted Living and Adult Foster Care placements; annual re-assessments
 - Adult Foster Home provider recruitment.

Finance

- *Financial Overview*

The appropriation for Auxiliary Grants for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled is 80% general funds. A 20% local match is required (Note: Local funds are not appropriated in the state budget).

- *Financial Breakdown*

	Fiscal Year 2009		Fiscal Year 2010	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$27,183,456	\$0	\$27,183,456	\$0
Change To Base	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Service Area Total	\$27,183,456	\$0	\$27,183,456	\$0

Service Area Objectives

- Increase the use of the Auxiliary Grant Program.

Objective Measures

- Average monthly number of auxiliary grant cases in assisted living facilities and adult foster care homes

Governor's Key:

No

Measure Type:

Output

Measure Frequency:

Annual

Frequency Comment: Average monthly number of cases

Measure Baseline: 6,250 average number of auxiliary grant cases per month in SFY 2005

Measure Target: 5,500 average monthly auxiliary grant cases will be served at the end of SFY 2010.

Data Source and Calculation: The data will be captured in Adult Services/Adult Protective Services automated system and reports from VDSS Licensing Division and the Department of Medical Assistance Services. The number of auxiliary grant awards and public pay beds will be compared annually, as will local department of social services' waiting lists.